

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF AMERICAN JOURNALIST RE SITUATION OF
AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO CITY

1. ON FEBRUARY 20, 1975, DURING VISIT TO CG TO INQUIRE
ABOUT OTHER MATTERS, CURTIS HARTMAN, REPORTER FOR THE
BOSTON GLOBE, MADE FOLLOWING UNSOLICITED COMMENTS RE
PRISONERS' SITUATION:

A. THREE TIMES PER WEEK FOR FOUR WEEKS HE HAS BEEN INTER-
VIEWING AMERICAN PRISONERS FOR STORY HE INTENDS SUBMIT FOR
PUBLICATION IN APRIL.

B. HIS INTEREST WAS AROUSED BY US PRESS PUBLICITY GIVEN
TO PRISONERS IN DECEMBER AND EARLIER, ESPECIALLY BY L.A.
TIMES AND CONGRESSMAN STARK'S PUBLICIZED EFFORTS IN
PRISONERS' BEHALF.

C. AS A RESULT OF HIS OWN INVESTIGATIONS AND BASED
ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRISONERS, HARTMAN SAID HE
DOES "NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THE ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN
THE DAILY US PRESS DESCRIBE THE TRUE SITUATION".

D. HE FURTHER SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE JOURNALISTS
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"LIKE MEISLER (STANLEY MEISLER OF THE L.A. TIMES) WHO

WROTE THOSE STORIES WERE EITHER ACTING OUT AND CARRYING ON THEIR OWN BIASES OR WERE INCREDIBLY NAIVE."

E. WHEN HE ASKED ONE PRISONER TO GIVE HIM HIS STORY, HARTMAN SAID, THE PRISONER REPLIED, "I'VE GIVEN TWO OTHER REPORTERS ONE STORY EACH. GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES AND I'LL MAKE UP A GOOD ONE FOR YOU."

F. ANOTHER PRISONER, HE SAID, WHO INSISTED AT FIRST THAT HE WAS A FIRST-OFFENDER DUPE, ADMITTED DURING A SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW THAT HE HAD BEEN A DRUG SMUGGLER SINCE 1964.

G. HARTMAN SAID HE CONVINCED THAT "ORGANIZED EFFORT BY CERTAIN PARENTS, TIMES AND CONGRESSMAN STARK AND OTHERS TO SECURE PRISONERS DEPORTATION TO U.S. HAS DONE PRISONERS THEMSELVES A DISSERVICE BY RAISING IN THEM FALSE HOPES AND UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF THEIR EARLY RELEASE."

2. HARTMAN HAS ASKED THAT HE NOT REPEAT NOT BE IDENTIFIED IN ANY WAY AS THE SOURCE OF THE FOREGOING. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD RETURN IN LATE MARCH FOR WHATEVER INFORMATION EMBASSY IN POSITION TO GIVE HIM ON THIS SUBJECT.
JOVA

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